

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



Delivery of water by EPA for Agriculture/Livestock needs

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #11
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/18/2015

Reporting Period: 8/17/2015 0700 – 8/17/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

2.1 Operations Section

EPA had a follow up discussion with NMED on both short and long term criteria as proposed in their submission. EPA requested that NMED provide clarification on some elements of their recommendations. EPA will continue collaboration with NMED.

Data Posting to the Web

The August 6 and 12, 2015, surface water sampling data from public water supply intakes is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-17-2015>.

On August 17, 2015, EPA R6 sent Area Command and HQ the following data, but it has not yet been posted.

- Sediment sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 10, 12, and 13, 2015
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment sample data from August 13, 2015

Community Meeting

At the August 17, 2015, community meeting, community members were very interested in Dr. David Charter's presentation on samples results. The August 17th meeting should be the last community meeting.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/17/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	18	145
Calls Concerning R6	4	54
Calls Returned by R6	0	50

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the seventeen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

TOPIC	DATE: 08/17/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	2	17
Water Concerns	0	7
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	1	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	2	14
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	5
Daily Totals:	5	55

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

At this time the private drinking water well sampling effort is completed.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
TOTAL	114 Distinct Wells

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar and Farmington tested the connection. The pump works but the pipe separated in one section. System operators are working to repair the leak and will hopefully get the system back online later today.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/16/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	96
River Sediment Samples	9	73

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

Agriculture and Livestock Water

Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

	8/17/15	Total to Date
Farmers Served	3	28
Gallons to Farmers	47,040	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	6	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	6,804	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	0	244 bales*

* Bales of hay and alfalfa picked up in previous time period but not reported.

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll	EPA Cumulative Expended Travel	EPA Cumulative Other Charges	Cumulative Contract Costs	TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$188,970.00	\$47,650.00	\$11,854.56	\$1,048,841.98	\$1,297,316.54	\$116,450

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	13
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 Contractors in Field	25